



7.5 Map of Las Palmas waterfront.

and the seventh densest in Spain. The Canaries consist of seven islands: El Hierro, La Gomera, Tenerife, Gran Canaria, Lanzarote and Fuerteventura. Two provinces make up the islands: Santa Cruz de Tenerife is the western capital and Las Palmas de Gran Canaria is the eastern capital. The city of Las Palmas occupies a magnificent isthmus formed by two bays. On the western side lies Playa de las Canteras and on the eastern edge lies Playa de las Alcaravaneras, which is the home of the port. The topography of Gran Canaria is undulating, evidence of the volcanic origins of the island. Craters and cones serve as reminders of the geologic past of the region. Many *barrancos*, or narrow valleys, cover the island and determine the form of development in the urban areas.

The city of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria was founded in 1478, by invading Spanish forces, at the mouth of the Barranco de Guinguada, which is the site of the historic center, Vegueta. The original inhabitants of the island were the Guanches, thought to have been of Berber origin. Until the arrival of the Europeans, the Canary culture was Neolithic and many